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REMARKS

Applicants have carefully studied the Office Action. This paper is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 2, 17, and 40 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 9-15, 20, 23-27 and 34-38 were cancelled previously. Claims 1, 3-8, 16, 18, 28-29, 39, and 41-42 have been amended. Consequently, claims 1, 3-8, 16, 18-19, 21-22, 28-33, 39, and 41-42 are pending.

Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims add no new matter.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 16, 17, 28, 39 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Kuan et al., US Application Publication No. 2003/0224797. Applicants traverse this rejection in view of the remarks that follow.

Claims 2, 17, and 40 have been cancelled rendering their rejection moot.

Each of amended independent claims 1, 16, 28, and 39 recite in paraphrase broadcasting a first command to the plurality of nodes to start a hidden node detection and broadcasting a second command to the plurality of nodes to send a nodes report to the access point.

Kuan does not disclose or suggest these features of claims 1, 16, 28, and 39. In particular, Kuan does not disclose broadcasting commands to start hidden node detection or to send nodes reports. Kuan uses a detector to monitor transmissions as follows, "In one exemplary embodiment, a wireless local area network (WLAN) is monitored by receiving transmissions exchanged between one or more stations and an access point (AP) in the WLAN using a detector located in the WLAN." (Kuan, paragraph [008])

For a reference to anticipate a claim, each element of the claim must appear in the

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reference. Therefore, Kuan does not anticipate claims 1, 16, 28, and 39, as amended.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 16, 17, 28, 39 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kuan et al. should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 3-8, 18, 19, 21, 22, 29-33, 41 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Kuan in view of Choi, US Patent Serial No 6,967,944. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As discussed above, independent claims 1, 16, 28 and 39 are allowable over Kuan. Choi does not cure the deficiencies of Kuan with respect to these independent claims. In particular, Choi does not disclose broadcasting a command to begin detection of hidden nodes. Therefore, neither of Kuan and Choi alone or in combination render claims 1, 16, 28 or 39 obvious.

Each of claims 3-8, 18, 19, 21, 22, 29-33, 41 and 42 depends from one of claim 1, 16, 28, and 39, includes all of the limitations of one of these independent claim as well as additional distinguishing features, and is therefore patentable.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 3-8, 18, 19, 21, 22, 29-33, 41 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Kuan in view of Choi should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, and for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner have any questions or comments as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Except for the fee for the petition for the extension of time, being paid separately, no fees are believed to be due associated with this paper. However, if any fees are due, please charge such fees to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,



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